



Salisbury United Church

March 7, 2021

Welcome to Worship Online!

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn: Come In, Come In and Sit Down; 395VU

*Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place, like a Mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
There's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

*Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

Lighting of The Christ Candle (everyone lights their at-home candles)

**The Light of Christ is with us, between us and all around us.
Thanks be to God.**

Passing the Peace (said with hands over our hearts)

The peace of Christ be with you!



Call To Prayer

Gather in, dear ones,
wherever you are this morning.
Despite whatever doors are locked to keep you in or out,
we have found a way to be together.
We are not alone, we live in God's world.
As God's people we make a sacred commitment
to open our hearts and minds to what word the Spirit might offer,
to what nudging, what questions, what grace
might be given in this time.
Please join in this time of worship.

Hymn: Jesus, Come To Our Hearts; #324VU, vs 1-3

Jesus, come to our hearts like falling rain;
Come to refresh, come to renew, wash all our sins away.

Spirit, come to our hearts like rushing wind;
come with your fire, come with your life, blow all our doubts away.

Come, God, come to our hearts like shining sun;
Come to reveal, lighten your Word, drive all our gloom away.

Opening Prayer

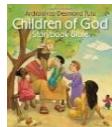
Gracious God,
you are our sacred space within a swirling storm;
you are our source of calm amidst the chaos.
Help us become more aware of your constant, gentle presence.
We ask for your strength to sustain us,
your love to replenish us,
and your peace to fulfill us.

In this hour of worship, in this time of pandemic,
may we be reminded and reassured that we are truly yours.
In the name of Jesus, the Risen One, we pray together, saying...

Our Father,
Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever, amen.



Scripture Video: “Sharing God’s Plan” Matthew 25



Jesus said, “In time, God will gather all people together and will separate them like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

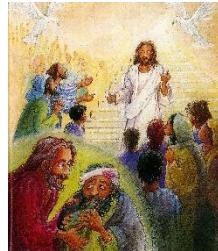
“To those who helped God’s dream come true, he will say, ‘Your are blessed, for I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me water; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; I was naked, and you gave me clothes; I was sick, and you cared for me; I was in prison, and you visited me.’ “Those who were generous will say, ‘But Lord, when were you hungry or thirsty? When were you a stranger or needing clothes? How could you be sick or in prison?’

“God will answer, ‘As you did for even the least of my children, you did for me.’

“Those who were not generous will say, ‘Hey, wait a minute, God! If we had realized that it was you, we would have helped too.’

“God’s tears will fall as he says, ‘It is too late.

Every time you turned away from one of my children, you turned away from me.”



Hymn: Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold; 605VU vs 1

Jesus, teacher, brave and bold, let us serve you, young and old.
Let us faith-filled workers be, all around, your wisdom see.
Let us play and dance and sing, your goodness find in everything.

Discovery Time:

Hymn: Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold; 605VU vs 2

Jesus, friend, so strong and true, show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend, all things broken help us mend.
Free our minds and stretch our care, teach us to serve you
everywhere.

Sermon

Hymn: Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.

Jesus prayed for his disciples; he prayed alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could bear such sorrow;
he prayed alone for you and me.

Jesus died on Calvary's mountain; he died alone for you and me.
O, nobody else could die like he did; he had to die for you and me.

Jesus rose from death's dark prison; he lives again for you and me.
O, nobody else could bring us vict'ry; he arose to set us free.

Minute for Mission: Arwa's Story

Recognition of Offering

God of the wilderness,
we give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.
We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.
And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

Hymn: Lord, Accept This Bread and Wine

Lord, accept this bread and wine,
take our hearts and make them thine,
take our work and our anxiety,
give us life and liberty.
Make us now into your body,
at your table change our lives,
as we pray with all creation,
to be made new with all the earth.



Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

This is the table made ready by God.
It has been prepared for all those with longing in their hearts.
Come then, all you with broken or battered lives,
come to share in the meal that is open to all.
Today there is a simple heartfelt invitation
for you to receive the blessing God gives.

Hymn: Take, O Take Me As I Am; #85MV

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Prayer Before Sharing

God is with us.
Thanks be to God.
Let us meet together at God's own table.
Summoned by God, we come with longing and hopeful hearts.

God of Life,
You are always with your people in all times and places.
Whether we are stumbling or surefooted, you are there at our side.
It has always been this way, down through the corridors of time,
even when we have wandered far from you.

Sometimes we get lost in our own anger,
fear or pain and can't find you.
Life becomes a maze and we are not always able
to see or think clearly.

Sometimes we suffer in mind, as well as body and spirit.
We cannot see our way free to breathe deeply the breath of life.
Even so we come now to this table,
breaking bread and remembering the actions and words of Jesus.

In the closing days of his life,
Jesus met with his friends and followers,
sharing one last meal with them.
During that last supper, Jesus took bread,
broke it and shared it with them, saying:
"Take, eat, remember me."

Likewise, he took a cup, filled it with wine
and passed it over to them, saying:
"Take, drink, remember me."

By these words and actions Jesus proclaimed his love
for all those broken and weary and tossed about in creation.
By our words and actions today,
we join the broken and weary and tossed about of this age.
We place ourselves at Jesus' table of broken
and outpoured love with them.
As we break this bread, as we lift this outpoured cup,
we participate in Jesus' life of sacrificial love,
a life opposed but never overcome
by the powers and principalities of the world.



It is because of his life of love that we now pray:

Send down your Holy Spirit on us now,
and on this broken bread and this empowering cup.
Make a resurrection for us and all of creation,
so that in and through these broken things
we find confirmation in ourselves once again
that love is stronger than fear,
hope better than anger,
open-hearted sacrifice better than hate.

In the sharing,
let us together become a living sign
of your eternal presence,
a presence that we can now grasp firmly
with fragile human hands.

And may we continue to meet together at Christ's table,
until times runs out
and all things in creation are made new.

Amen.

Sharing of Communion

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Prayer After Sharing

God of the bread broken,
God of the cup drained to the dregs.
In the breaking we are put back together,
In the emptying out we are made full.
Now the bread is put away and the cup is set aside.
Now we are the offering that you make to the world.
So keep our minds, and stretch our care.
And help us to love you everywhere. Amen.

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness; #288VU

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
wondrous the portion thy blessing provide.

Saying Goodbye To The Light Of Christ

The Christ light can never be put out.

Even when we blow it out,
it simply changes form,
and drifts like smoke
into all the four directions of the world.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)



**The smoke rises like a blessing, until we meet again,
and can put a flame to the candle wick,
declaring that the light of Christ is with us,
between us and all around us.**

Blessing

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you
through the wilderness garden of the world and on into Easter.



MARCH BOTTLE DRIVE

March 26 from 9am to 1pm
and March 27, from 9am to 4pm

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- Call to Prayer – gathering, Lent/Easter2021, pg.30, Juanita Austin
- Scripture Video – Children of God Storybook Bible
by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Minute for Mission –<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ICDCww8sno&t=2s>
- Offering & Blessing – written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her
Spacious Faith blog <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Music

- Come In, Come In and Sit Down; James K. Manley, 1984
- Jesus, Come To Our Hearts; William Worley, 1992
- Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold; Walter Farquharson, 1972
- Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley; Words- Hope Publishing Co., 1996
- Take, O Take Me As I Am; John L. Bell, 1995
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Hope Publishing Company, 1995

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